

**SOCCER MUNSTER JUNIOR CUP FINAL**

**Cup Kings:** The Janesboro players celebrate their Munster Junior Cup final win over Nenagh AFC at Cook park, Tipperary on Saturday evening



# Janesboro celebrate Munster Cup glory

Janesboro	2
Nenagh AFC	0

**PAT SHEEHAN**  
In Tipperary Town

THERE were joyous scenes in Cook Park on Saturday evening when Janesboro's current crop of players closed a 31 gap in the clubs history when they captured the Munster Junior Cup in a 2-0 win over Nenagh AFC.

Two goals from hot shot Shane Clarke bagged the provincial trophy for a club deservedly rewarded for their commitment and vision.

The management team of Shane O'Hanlon, Daithi O'Donoghue, Derek Braddish and David Browne were determined to bring the Pearse Stadium club back to the forefront after a few barren years and Saturday's result was testament to that effort.

It was a thoroughly deserved victory for the Limerick side who outplayed their opponents for the 90 minutes and were rarely troubled by the Tipperary side.

Janesboro carried the favourites tag into the tie and while they dominated possession, all too often their

play broke down in the last quarter but once Clarke netted from the spot before the break there was only going to be one winner.

Shane Clarke will take the plaudits for his two goals but Shane Waters also had a fine game up front although I felt Boro did not use him enough when in possession.

Thomas Lyons was rock solid in the middle of the field with little fuss but it was the central defensive partnership of Thomas Clarke and Wayne Colbert who were the driving force for victory.

Clarke won every challenge he made while Colbert just oozes class and even a late red card could not take from his performance.

Nenagh's Shane O'Gorman was solid while in the middle of the park Jerome Ashman and Mike Hogan matched their counterparts.

Right from the off Boro had Nenagh on the back foot. Shane Clarke took possession from an early corner and a well struck 20 yarder was gathered at the second attempt by Aaron Savage in the Nenagh goal.

After ten minutes Mike O'Gorman's shot from outside the box was only parried by Savage and Clarke was in like a light to tuck away the rebound but a linesman's flag ruled out the effort.

In their first foray into the Boro danger zone Nenagh nearly snatched the lead.

Thomas Sheppard's powerful run was halted by a good block by Thomas Clarke and from Mike Hogan's resultant corner kick two Boro defenders let the ball run dead but luckily for them the upright stopped the ball sneaking in.

Five minutes later some dinky footwork by Waters took him past two defenders and his perfect delivery to the back post was volleyed wastefully over the top by Roche.

Conor Lynch and Waters combined to put O'Gorman through but again the chance was wasted with a volley high over the bar.

A superb through ball by Lyons saw Clarke break clear of Chadwick's grip but the striker opted for an extra touch allowing the defender back to recover.

When it looked like the sides would go in level at the break, Waters collected outside the box traded passes with Clarke before being hacked down in the area. From the resultant spot kick Clarke gave Savage no chance.

The goal took the heat out of the tie and the second half was a low key affair.

Boro had a chance to double their

lead on 50 minutes when Clarke won possession in the corner and a quick ball to O'Gorman was lobbed inches over the top.

Ten minutes later Shane Clarke's through ball put Waters clear and he looked to have been bundled over as he attempted to shoot but the Referee waved play on.

Substitute Keith McNicholas blasted narrowly over the top and when the Referee missed a blatant foul in the box on Clarke, Nenagh broke quickly and Jerome Ashman had a shot deflected into the side netting.

The clinching goal arrived on 85 minutes. A free kick on the right was played short by Wayne O'Donovan to Waters and the full back took the return pass before crossing to the front post for Clarke who fired home from eight yards. Boro were reduced to ten men for the seven minutes injury time played.

**JANESBORO** - Darren Glasheen, Wayne O'Donovan, Aled Harkin, Wayne Colbert, Tom Clarke, Dave Roche, Thomas Lyons, Mike O'Gorman, Shane Waters, Shane Clarke, Conor Lynch, Reserves, Keith McNicholas, David Donnan, Aidan Hurley, along with John Ryan, Mouslim Mousserine, Lee O'Mara, Patrick Stanislewski, Adrian Healy, Dom Fitzgerald

**NENAGH** - Aaron Savage, David Chadwick, Mark McKenna, Shane O'Gorman, Andy Chadwick, Damien Mitchell, Jerome Ashman, Mike Hogan, Thomas Sheppard, Trevor Morrissey, Arthur Mitchell, Reserves, David Kelly, Nathan Kelly, John Mitchell

**TAGLINE TAGLINE**

Five-star Blues pick up crucial win to stay in second place

SD Galway	2
Limerick FC	5

LIMERICK FC kept up the pressure on Longford Town at the top of the Airtricity League First Division coming out on the right side of this feast of goals.

Debutante James McGrath was the Limerick hero with two goals from his position wide of midfield in Eamon Deacy Park on Friday evening.

Although Limerick had the better of the early exchanges it was the home side that struck first when Luke McConnell crashed to the net from the edge of the box.

But the goal brought Limerick to life and Stephen Bradley has Limerick level in most specular fashion.

From almost 35yards he looped his shot over Ronan Burke and just under the crossbar for the equaliser.

Limerick's supremacy was rewarded on 30-minutes when McGrath found the net for the first time when he profited from a Rory Gaffney long throw to fire to the net at the far post.

But that was not the end of the first half scoring and the sides were to retreat to the dressing rooms all-square with Enda Curran heading home the second goal for the Galway side Limerick emerged re-energised and McGrath turned provider on 10-minutes when he set up Denis Behan for a cracking finish from the edge of the box.

McGrath had Limerick firmly in the driving seat with his second on the hour mark. Substitute Cian Collins was the creator with a back heel to McGrath and he found the net with a cool finish.

The win was copperfastened for Pat Scully's side when captain Pat Purcell joined in on a night of thrilling goals with a half volley of his own.

Longford Town remain four points ahead of Limerick FC in the First Division table as a result of their 2-0 victory over Waterford United. Eleven of the 28-game League programme has now been completed.

Limerick FC's next League fixture is a crucial home tie against fourth-placed Athlone Town at Jackman Park this Friday at 7.45pm when Pat Scully's side will be desperate to pick up three more points.

**SD GALWAY** - Ronan Burke; Colm Horgan, Cian Fadden, Eric Browne, Tommy Bradshaw (James Whelan 78); Mike Tierney (Ronan Conlon 78), Luke McConnell, Mike Harly (Timmy Molloy 72), Eugene Greaney, Willie Enubele; Enda Curran.

**LIMERICK** - Dave Ryan; Shaun Kelly, Paddy Purcell, Shane Guthrie, Shane Tracy; James McGrath (Steven McGann 85), Stephen Bradley, David O'Leary, Derek O'Brien (Cian Collins 65), Rory Gaffney; Denis Behan (Garry Sheahan 81).

**REFEREE** - Kevin O'Regan.

**AIRTRICITY LEAGUE DIVISION 1**

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Longford Town	11	9	1	1	+9	28
Limerick FC	11	8	0	3	+10	24
Wexford Youths	11	6	1	4	+8	19
Athlone Town	11	6	1	4	+3	19
Waterford Utd	11	5	2	4	-1	17
Finn Harps	11	4	0	7	-5	12
Mervue Utd	11	1	2	8	-8	5
SD Galway	11	0	3	8	-16	3

**WEEKEND RESULTS**

ATHLONE TOWN 2 MERVUE LTD 1; SD GALWAY 2 LIMERICK FC 5; WATERFORD UNITED 0 LONGFORD TOWN 2; WEXFORD YOUTHS 3 FINN HARPS 0

**UP NEXT?**

FRIDAY, MAY 25 - LIMERICK FC V ATHLONE TOWN; MERVUE V WEXFORD; LONGFORD V SD GALWAY; FINN HARPS V WATERFORD LTD

>>> Don't miss Wednesday's Limerick Leader for reports on Eamon Ray and Brosnahan Cup finals